



The Alliance Pulse



Welcome to the First Alliance newsletter! The Alliance Pulse will keep its finger on the pulse of health care training issues in our region, and provide you with relevant updates to Alliance initiatives. The Pulse is happy to publish information you would like to share with other Alliance members.

Three Colleges Unite to Win Big on Expanding RN Training Capacity

Skagit Valley College, Whatcom Community College and Bellingham Technical College have taken the first step in moving toward the Alliance's goal of expanding our RN nursing capacity in this region and addressing our nursing shortage.

The three colleges, with the assistance of Alliance staff, applied for and successfully obtained a state high demand grant for 30 FTEs to be divided between the three schools. The total amount to be received over each year is \$298,000, and is ongoing.

This grant is supported by a \$100,000 match pledge by the private sector providers on the Alliance team.

Thanks Everyone!

Looking for a Few Good Nurses?

In response to the local nursing shortage, the WDC and Bellingham Technical College partnered to add an extra nursing class in the Fall of 2002. As a result, 17 more nursing graduates will be hitting the market this February. Need a trained Practical Nurse? Contact WDC staff member, Duane Jager, who is overseeing the project. Duane can be reached at 360-676-3235 or djager@nwpic.bellingham.wa.us

K-12 CAREER PATH INITIATIVE

Alliance health care leaders partnered with high school career counselors, health teachers, and career and technical education directors to introduce health and allied occupations to high school students, including two summer Health Career Camps. Jane Stanley, Executive Director of Life Care Center at Mount Vernon, participated as a host site for three summer camp students and in her letter of support stated, "...I do believe that each student has come away with a much better understanding of what it means to work in healthcare. The students worked in Social Services, Activities, Nursing, Therapy, Housekeeping, and Restorative Nursing, for approximately one week in each area.

...For our residents, they all enjoyed the extra time and attention the interns were able to give them, as well as their youthfulness and high energy levels....the intern program really is a good thing for the kids, but it's really neat to see your staff with them. The staff are just walking a little taller, a little prouder when they are with the intern...I would personally add that this program is a very valuable tool for both businesses and students. Having these types of programs available in our communities will be instrumental in preparing us for our future in the healthcare industry."

With additional funding from an Incentive grant awarded to the Workforce Development Council, staff are meeting with Alliance members and secondary school personnel planning the expansion of the school year and summer components to serve 100 students, including a health career camp for 8th graders.

Attention Alliance Members!

Your help is needed for this important Alliance priority! Staff member Duane Jager (360.676.3235) will be contacting you to recruit health care professionals for speaking engagements at area high schools and participation in the summer health career camps.

- MARK YOUR CALENDARS -

THE NEXT ALLIANCE MEETING

JANUARY 21, 2004

REGENCE BLUE SHIELD in BURLINGTON

1:00 — 4:00 P.M.

- Please Plan to Attend! -



RN to RN specialty Training: A Big Success!

Critical Care: 12 students successfully completed the first Critical Care Consortium orientation program using web-based curriculum, local study groups, clinical sites and preceptors and the second cohort, begun in September, has 9 students enrolled from all area hospitals.

Emergency Department Nursing: The Alliance helped organize, manage and deliver training using video-conferencing, clinical sites and preceptors—9 nurses completed video portion of the course which began in September 2003.

DIVERSITY INITIATIVES

Activities continue to be directed at increasing the diversity and number of individuals prepared to enter and successfully complete further training for health and allied careers. These activities will provide the basic and prerequisite skills and certifications to bridge individuals into the next career step in health occupations.

The NWDC and the three area Colleges will collaborate on developing and delivering basic academic skills/ English as a Second Language (ESL) courses, including English, math, and science nursing pre-requisite classes, combined with Nursing Assistant and other allied health services training. These classes will be marketed to the English as a Second Language (ESL) and Low Basic Skills populations. This will expand access to a career ladder into nursing and other health occupation, including medical assistants, for ESL and other individuals needing improved basic skills. This class will be based on a pilot program at Skagit Valley College that prepared 18 ESL adults with an orientation to health care and the academic preparation that enabled sixteen of them to successfully enter a Practical Nurse training program and two to go on in Medical Assisting.

WCC Moves Forward with Independent Program

Whatcom Community College is excited about their new independent nursing program. The hired Sally Van Kooten as the Nursing Expansion Coordinator to oversee the project. Currently, WCC is a satellite of SVC's nursing program. A major component of this project will be to establish a WCC Nursing Education Program and to longer be a satellite of SVC. Other activities of this project will be:

- Starting a new nursing cohort each year beginning fall '03
 - Revision of the Nursing 165 class to accommodate late start students who will take nursing 201 winter quarter
 - Exploration of a "Return to Nursing" refresher class for nurses who have been out of nursing for a number of years and wish to return; and
 - support for potential nursing students involved in taking their prerequisites.
- Please contact Sally Van Kooten at 676-2171 for more information.

BTC offers a "Bridge" from LPN to RN

The "Bridge" from LPN-RN has been developed to include the additional general education requirements for LPN's to enter the second year of an ADN/RN program. This certificate is available to those individuals who have graduated from a PN program containing the relevant coursework, are now LPNs, and wish to continue their education to become RNs. Four courses compose the LPN to RN certificate: Inorganic Chemistry, General Microbiology, Developmental Psychology and Pre-Calculus I. These courses will be taught to a cohort of LPN to RN students in a block format over one quarter (Two courses will be taught the first six weeks of the quarter, two the second six weeks and the math across the entire quarter.) Students must be a working LPN and have completed the following general education requirements with a C or better grade: English Composition, Intermediate Algebra, Cell Biology, Anatomy and Physiology I and II and General Psychology. Twenty-four students will be accepted for each cohort. Student interest has been very high.

Alliance Meeting Agenda for

Wednesday, January 21

Regence Blue Shield

333 Gilkey Road, Burlington, WA 98233

1:00 - 4:00 pm

- 1) **Intro and Welcome:**
 - Minutes of June 24, 2003 meeting
- 2) **RN Expansion**
 - Program Update
 - Funding Plan--Action
 - Funding Management--Action
 - Evaluation Plan--Action
- 3) **RN Specialty**
 - Update
- 4) **Alliance Membership**
 - Action Item
- 5) **K-12 Pipeline**
 - Program Update
 - Funding Updates
 - What we need from Providers
- 6) **C-NA**
 - Update
 - Alliance sponsor meeting between long-term care facilities for CNA training
- 7) **Diversity Initiative**
 - Update
- 8) **Adjourn**